PASSAGES AT NEWPORT. IN THE Isle of Wight.

PASSAGES

LICENS'D, AT

NEWPORT. Jan. 20. 1689.

IN THE

Ile of Wight.

CERTAIN PASSAGES

Which happened at

NEWPORT,

IN THE

Isle of Wight,

NOVEMB. 29. 1648.

Relating to

KING CHARLES I.

WRITTEN

By Mr. *EDWARD COOKE*, of *Highnam* in *Glouceſterſhire*, ſometime Colonel of a Regiment under *Oliver Cromwell*.

LONDON,

Printed for *Richard Chiſwell*, at the Roſe and Crown in St. *Paul's Church-Yard*, MDCXC.

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PASSAGES

Which happened at

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NOVEMB. 29. 1648.

Relating to

KING CHARLES I

WRITTEN

By Mr. EDWARD COOKE, of Highclaim in Chesterfield,

Sometime Colonel of a Regiment under Cromwell.

LONDON

Printed for Richard Chiswell, at the Rose and Crown

in St. Paul's Church-Yard, MDCXC.

TO THE READER.

THAT which I had read, and heard of King Charles the First, of Blessed Memory, raised in me a great Veneration for him.

This made me curious in enquiring after any Memorials which related to him, especially such as concern'd his Solitudes and Sufferings; which though they did not create his Vertues, yet they encreased them, and rendred them much more Illustrious.

Among other Relations, this of Colonel Cook's came lately to my hands; and I did believe it fit to be made publick,

both because the Account given in it is more particular than any yet extant, and given by a Convert of Integrity, who bare a great part in the Affair; and also because it shews how tender a regard that good King *had to his Word, chusing rather to fall into the hands of cruel Men, than to give occasion to a mere appearance of the* Breach *of it. If all Princes were of that Disposition, their* Faith *would more effectually secure them, than against another, than their Armies.*

I shall here say no more, than that the Doctrine which was practis'd in Forty eight, *was publish'd in* English *in* Twenty one, *in the Book entitled,* [The Rights of the Prelate and the Prince] *by a good* Roman Catholick *Divinity, by J. E. with* Licence *of Superiors; and consequently, that* John Good-

win

win *and* John Milton *were not the first Broachers of it in* England.

The strain of the whole Book is of that nature, and the following words are part of it : * ‘ And if Kings, who ‘ were not excommunicated nor de- ‘ prived by the Pope, may by the ‘ Commonwealth be deposed and ‘ **kill'd,** when they are intolerable Ty- ‘ rants ; why may not the Common- ‘ wealth exercise the same Power over ‘ Tyrants excommunicated and de- ‘ prived by the Pope, They, after ‘ Excommunication and Deprivation, ‘ being no more Kings, but private ‘ Men. * Chap. 15. pag. 375.

Jan. 18. 1689.

CERTAIN

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CERTAIN

PASSAGES

Which happened at

NEWPORT,

IN THE

Iſle of Wight, &c.

NOVEMB. 29. 1648.

THAT Evening, between the Hours of Seven and Eight, the King ſent for the Duke of *Richmond*, the Earl of *Lindſey*, and Col. *Edward Cooke* (who were all three together at the Duke of *Richmond*'s Lodgings, in *Newport*, in the *Iſle of Wight*) with all ſpeed to attend him, who accordingly haſtened to the Court; the two Lords entring into

the King's inner Room, while the Colonel waited in the outward Room for farther Orders.

The King acquainted the Lords, That one of his Servants had been ſent for by a Perſon in a kind of diſguiſe, who having informed him, that the Army would that Night ſeize upon the King's Perſon, abruptly left him. The Duke of *Richmond* acquainting the King, that Col. *Cooke* attended without, was commanded to call him in: The King asked him whether he had heard any thing that the Army deſigned to ſeize upon him that Night. He anſwered, That he did not hear any thing ſo much as tending towards it; adding, Surely, if I had, I would have acquainted the King with it. The King giving the Colonel the reaſon of his Queſtion, commanded

ded him to find out Major *Rolph*, and enquire of him, what he knew of it, (who was then left as Deputy-Governor by Col. *Hammond*, with Directions, That on all occaſions he ſhould addreſs to the King through the ſaid Colonel *Cooke*, as himſelf had uſually done during the Treaty.

Col. *Cooke* having the King's Commands, and opportunely finding Major *Rolph* in his Chamber, acquainted him that the King ſent him to enquire of him, Whether the Army reſolved to ſeize upon him that night. He anſwered, Not that he knew of; adding, *You may aſſure the King from me, That he may reſt quietly this night; for on my life he ſhall have no diſturbance this night.* Colonel *Cooke* obſerving that he placed ſo much Emphaſis on thoſe words [*This Night*]

though that was all he was commanded by the King to ask, urged him farther, whether really there was any ſuch deſign at all or not. After a little pauſe, he anſwered, It was impoſſible for him to know the preſent purpoſes of the Army at ſo great a diſtance, but that as yet he had received no ſuch Orders. The Colonel replied, *But if you ſhall hereafter, ſhall I be ſure ſo timely to be made acquainted with them, as that the King may not be ſurprized with the execution of them?* To which requeſt he ſeemingly conſented; anſwering, That was but a due reſpect to the King.

Col. *Cooke* thereupon returning to the King, gave him a punctual Account of all theſe Paſſages; who in the mean time having been informed, that

that a conſiderable number of the Army were that night landed in the Iſland, remanded Col. *Cooke* back to Major *Rolph* to enquire the truth thereof; who thus anſwered him, That he knew freſh Forces would e're long come over to relieve thoſe that then paſt on Duty there, but that as yet he was not certain of their being landed. Which Anſwer alſo the Colonel returned to the King; who, in that ſhort time of his abſence, had received a farther Information, That Two thouſand Foot were drawn up about *Carisbrook Caſtle*; at which the King ſeemed to be moſt ſtartled, ſaying, *Sure there muſt needs be ſome extraordinary Deſign on foot, that ſuch a Body of Men ſhould not only be ſo privately landed, but alſo in ſuch a bitter night as this is, to be*

expoſed

exposed to such extremity of Weather, the Wind blowing very high, and the Rain falling very fast. The King expressing a great desire to be satisfied in the truth of this, and doubting that he might not be so clearly dealt with by Major *Rolph*, Colonel *Cooke* offered his Service to go and see; but the King (reflecting on the severity of the Weather) refused to expose him; yet owning it an important particular, whereof to be rightly informed: which the Colonel observing, importun'd the King, that, if he could be so long dispensed with from His Majesty's Service there, he would give him leave to go, he knowing no other expedient for the King's certain Satisfaction. He also prest the Lords to intercede for him therein, and at last obtained leave of the King;

His

His Majesty adding these gracious Expressions, That he hoped he, being young and healthy, would receive no prejudice by it, and that he might live to requite it; repeating his desire to know the truth of it.

The Colonel took leave, and having soon got himself and his Horse ready, though the night was extraordinary dark, fortunately grop'd out his way through the dark, and found the Castle; which having carefully rounded, and finding no body without, he went to the Gate, and having performed the usual Ceremonies (as giving the Word to the Corporal) and sheltred himself under the Gate from the excess of Rain that then fell, he sent his desires to the Governor, to have one Captain *Boreman* (a Gentleman of that Island, who commanded

manded a Militia-Company there) with whom he was well acquainted, to come to him: In the mean time he diſcourſed with the Soldiers, to try what he could get out of them; but found they were altogether ignorant, being a Company of the Iſlanders newly marched in; the two Army-Companies, formerly garriſon'd there, being drawn down into the Town of *Newport*, probably to double the Guards. After a longer ſtay than he expected, the Meſſenger returned with this Excuſe, That the Captain could not conveniently come out to him, but invited him in; who, when he came into the Parlour, was ſurprized with the ſight of about a dozen Officers of the Army, moſt of whoſe Faces he knew: And after mutual Salutation, he addreſs'd himſelf to the Governor, deſiring to

ſpeak

ſpeak with him; who (he obſerved) firſt asked, and obtained leave of thoſe Officers; wherefore asking him in private, what he meant by that; the Governor plainly told him, he was no better than their Priſoner in his own Garriſon, for they had threatned him with immediate Death, if he but ſo much as whiſpered with any of his own Servants. The Colonel asked him, whether he could imagine the Cauſe of all this? He anſwered, He ſuppoſed there was ſome conſiderable Deſign on foot, but he knew not what it was; adding, That he underſtood that the Captain that commanded the Troop of Horſe in the Iſland, was in the ſame condition, and that his Lieutenant commanded in his place; but that he knew no other cauſe for either, unleſs that they ſuſpected that they had too much Duty

for the King. Which gave the Colonel the opportunity of asking the particular Queſtion, Whether he knew any thing of the King's being that Night to be ſeized upon? Who anſwered, It was not improbable but that might be the Deſign, though he knew nothing of it.

Col. *Cooke* received as much light as the Governor could give him, took leave, and haſtned to give the King an exact Account of all had paſt; but found at his return a great Alteration at Court, Guards not only ſet round the King's Lodgings, and at every Window, but even within doors alſo; nay Sentinels on the King's very Chamber-door, ſo that the King was almoſt ſuffocated with the Smoak of the burning Match; which haſtned the Colonel to Major *Rolph*, to complain of the rude-

rudeneſs of the Soldiers; whom he found in his Bed (it being now near Twelve or One a Clock) having entred his Chamber againſt the will of his Servant: After his Apology, he made his Complaint, and received this Anſwer, That he was no way guilty of it, That the two Companies being late drawn out of the Caſtle, could not that night have Quarters provided for them, and therefore he had ordered them to double the Guards, not foreſeeing this would happen; but the next day he would redreſs all things himſelf, with all due reſpect to the King, and conſult him the ſaid Colonel in it; and that in the mean time he was confident on the Colonel's Complaint to the Captain of the Guards, he would draw off the Men from being offenſive to the King; adding, If the Colonel found

it needful, he might make uſe of his Name to the Captain of the Guard; to whom the Colonel making his Application, in his return to the King, prevailed with him to draw off thoſe Guards that were ſo great annoyance to the King, to a more tolerable diſtance.

At Col. *Cooke*'s return to the King, he made him repeat over all the ſeveral Paſſages that had happen'd that Night; which being compared together, and duly conſidered by the *King*, the Duke of *Richmond*, and Earl of *Lindſey* (for the Earl of *Southampton* being indiſpoſed, was before that time returned to his Lodgings; and the Marqueſs of *Hartford* had taken leave of the *King*, and left the Iſland that Morning, and was gon to *Netley*) all unanimouſly concluded that the Army would ſuddenly ſeize upon the *King*'s Perſon; which

which being taken for granted on all hands, the next Queſtion was, in this deſperate caſe, What was moſt adviſable to be done?

The Lords argued for the *King*'s attempting an immediate Eſcape; for he would better bring about a Perſonal Treaty with the Parliament (which he ſo much coveted) when out of the reach of the Army, than when within their Power; and this would certainly ſecure the Safety of his Perſon, which elſe might be very probably much in danger.

But before they could proceed to debate the manner of this Eſcape, the *King* prevented it, thus arguing againſt the Eſcape itſelf; firſt arguing the difficulties, if not impoſſibility of accompliſhing it; next the conſequences, that in caſe he ſhould miſcarry in the

Attempt,

Attempt, it would exaſperate the Army, and diſhearten his Friends; and laſtly, That if the Army ſhould ſeize him, they muſt preſerve him for their own ſakes; for that no Party could ſecure their own Intereſts, without joyning his with it, his Son being now out of their reach.

The Earl of *Lindſey* replied, *Take heed, Sir, leſt you fall into ſuch hands as will not ſteer by ſuch Rules of Policy, remember* Hampton-Court, *where your Eſcape was your beſt Security.* The Duke of *Richmond* adding, That yet he thought it feaſible enough, and turning about to Colonel *Cooke*, asked how he paſſed to and fro? who anſwered, He had the Word. The Duke asked, Whether he believed he could paſs him too? who anſwered, He made no queſtion but he

he could. At which the Duke took a longer Cloak, without a Star, and made the Colonel go along with him through the Guards, and ſo returned again to the *King*, acquainting him with what he had done, and with what eaſe; and thence took the advantage again to perſuade the *King*'s attempting to eſcape.

Who on a ſudden turning himſelf from the two Lords that were diſcourſing with him at the Window, to Colonel *Cooke*, who ſtood drying himſelf by the Fire, ſaid, *Ned Cooke, What do you adviſe me in this caſe?* Who humbly anſwered, He ſuſpected his own Judgment too much, to preſume to offer any Advice, conſidering both the greatneſs of the danger, and the Perſon concerned in it: That His Majeſty had

had his Privy-Council with him, to whom he humbly beſought him to liſten, obſerving what they preſſed him to. At which the Lords reſumed their former Diſcourſe, of attempting an Eſcape.

But the *King* turning about again, ſaid, *Ned, I command you to give me your Advice.* At which the Colonel begg'd leave, That after he had premiſed ſome Particulars, he might ask His Majeſty a Queſtion. Who permitting him; *Suppoſe* (ſaid he) *I ſhould not only tell Your Majeſty, That the Army would very ſuddenly ſeize upon you, but by concurring Circumſtances fully convince Your Majeſty it would be ſo: Alſo that I have the* Word, *Horſes ready at hand, a Veſſel attending at the Come, and hourly expecting me; That I am ready*

ready, and deſirous to attend you, and this diſmal dark night as it were ſuited to the purpoſe; ſo that I can foreſee no viſible difculty in the thing, which I ſuppoſe to be in all particulars the true ſtate of this preſent caſe: The only Queſtion now is, What will Your Majeſty reſolve to do? VVho, after a ſmall pauſe, pronounced this poſitive Anſwer, *They have promiſed me, and I have promiſed them, I will not break firſt.*

The Duke of *Richmond* urging the Colonel to ſpeak, he craved leave to ſpeak to argue the Point with the *King*; who ſaid, With all his heart. *I preſume, Sir* (ſaid the Colonel) *Your Majeſty intends by thoſe words* [They, *and* Them] *the Parliament; if ſo, the Scene now*

is quite altered or changed, your present Apprehension arising from the Army, who has so far already violated the Promises of the Parliament, as to invade Your Majesty's Freedom and Safety, by changing the single Sentinel of State at the outmost Door, into strong Guards on your very Bed-Chamber; which is in it self no better than a Confinement, and the probable fore-runner of something more, a speedy absolute Imprisonment.

The *King* replied, however he would not do any thing that should look like a breaking of his Word, and so bad him, and the Earl of *Lindsey* Good-night; and that he would go and take his rest too, so long as he could. To which Colonel *Cooke* replied, *I fear it will not be*

long.

long. The *King* answered, *As please God.* The *King* perceiving great uneasiness and disorder in the Colonel, said, *Ned, What troubles you, tell me!* Who replied, *Sir, to consider the greatness of Your Majesty's Danger, and your unwillingness to avoid it.* The *King* replied, *Ne'er let that trouble you, were it greater, I would not break my Word to prevent it. Sir* (said the Colonel) *will Your Majesty but respite the Resolution, and give me leave to step and call my Lord of* Southampton? *What needs that* (said the *King*) *Are not these my two Friends?* (pointing to the Duke of *Richmond* and Earl of *Lindsey*) *I tell you they are my two true Friends.* Said the Colonel, *Be pleased then to*

conſult them. Said the *King*, *I am reſolved, go you two to Bed* (meaning the Earl of *Lindſey*, and Colonel *Cooke*, for the Duke of *Richmond* was then in waiting) *and if I have need of you, I will ſend for you.* Whereupon both took leave.

But the Duke of *Richmond* ſtept after Col. *Cooke*, to conſult him, whether or no he had beſt put off his Cloathes that night? VVho anſwered, He himſelf for his part would not; for notwithſtanding Major *Rolph*'s Promiſe, he feared the *King* would ſoon be diſturbed, or elſe the face of Affairs deceived him. The Duke asked, whether he ſhould let the King know what his Opinion was? VVho anſwered,

VVith

VVith all his heart, and that he would ſtay in the outward Room, in hopes that he might occaſion ſome new Diſcourſes of the buſineſs. But the Duke ſoon returned, and told him, the *King* was reſolved to go to Bed. It was then almoſt One of the Clock, and tho' Col.*Cooke* went not to Bed all night, yet all things were carried with ſo great ſecrecy and quiet, that not the leaſt Noiſe was heard, nor the leaſt cauſe of Suſpicion given.

But in the Morning, juſt at break of day, the *King* hearing a great knocking at his Dreſſing-room-door, ſent the Duke of *Richmond* to know what it meant; who enquiring who was there? was anſwered, one *Mildmay* (one of thoſe Servants the Parliament had put to the King, and Bro-

Brother to Sir *Henry*.) The Duke demanding what he would have? answered, There were some Gentlemen from the Army very desirous to speak with the *King*; which Account the Duke gave the *King*; but the knocking encreasing, the *King* commanded the Duke to let them into his Dressing-room. No sooner was this done, but before the *King* got out of his Bed, those Officers rushed into his Chamber, and abruptly told the *King*, They had Orders to remove him. *From whom?* said the King. They replied, *From the Army*. The *King* asked whither he was to be removed? They answered, *To the Castle*. The *King* asked what Castle? Again they answered, *To the Castle*. *The Castle* (said the *King*) *is no Castle*; he told them

he

he was well enough prepared for any Caſtle, and required them to name the Caſtle. After a ſhort whiſpering together, they ſaid, *Hurſt Caſtle.* The *King* replied, *They could not name a worſe,* and called to the Duke of *Richmond* to ſend for the Earl of *Lindſey,* and Col. *Cooke.* At firſt they ſcrupled at the Earl of *Lindſey*'s coming; but the *King* ſaid, *Why not both, ſince both lye together?* They promiſed to ſend for both, but ſent for neither.

And tho' the Duke of *Richmond* had ordered the *King*'s Breakfaſt to be haſtened, preſuming there was little Proviſion in the deſolate Caſtle, yet when he was ſcarce ready, the Horſes being come, they hurried him away, only permitting the Duke to attend him about two Miles;

and then told him he muſt go no further. Where he ſadly took leave, being ſcarce permitted to kiſs the *King*'s Hand, whoſe laſt words were, *Remember me to my Lord* Lindſey, *and Col.* Cooke, *and command Col.* Cooke, *from me, never to forget the Paſſages of this Night.*

The Duke returned directly to the Earl of *Lindſey*'s Lodgings (on which, it appear'd, a Guard had been ſet all the night to keep him from the knowledge of what was doing, or at leaſt to confine him from ſtirring forth, had he known of it) and ſurprized both the Earl of *Lindſey*, and Col. *Cooke* with the Account of the *King*'s being carried away, with all its remarkable Circumſtances, delivering the King's gracious Remembrance

to

to them both, and his concluding Command to Col. *Cooke*. Wherefore while all Passages were ripe in their Memories, Col. *Cooke*, with the assistance of the Duke of *Richmond*, and Earl of *Lindsey*, drew up this Narrative in Obedience to the *King*'s Command.

After this the Duke of *Richmond*, Earl of *Lindsey*, and Earl of *Southampton*, with his Countess, immediately left the Island, and embarqued in a Vessel that belonged to Colonel *Cooke*, and landed near *Tichfield* (the Earl of *Southampton*'s House) where just at their landing, they were all seized on by a Party of Colonel *Okey*'s Regiment; who, by

the Persuasion of Colonel *Cooke*, and his Engagement for their forth-coming, were all permitted to go to the Earl of *Southampton*'s House the next Morning.

FINIS.

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